

Questions from 4-16-09 Flickr New Media Call

Q: Do you have any recommendations on how to create a voting system to determine which image people like best from a particular group of photos?"

We don't offer voting, but you can favorite photos and you can post a favorite photo to a group discussion thread. In your stats section, you can also see which photos have been viewed most.

Q: Does Flickr sharing rely on cookies? Any issues here for gov't?"

Yes, some of it does rely on cookies. Direct and farm URLs for individual images and videos are cookie-free, but slideshows are not.

Q: Do you now, or do you plan to have advertising on Flickr?

Flickr offers standard graphical and text advertising on the site. The ads are only visible to Flickr members with free accounts, and not visible to Pro members.

Q: can pro users (not in the commons) use ""no known copyright restrictions"" setting on photographs? Right now we have ""all rights reserved"" as a default...

The "no known copyright restrictions" license is currently only available to institutions contributing to the Commons. Flickr offers all other members with a variety of licensing options to support the members' intellectual property rights. Flickr members have a choice between All Rights Reserved and Creative Commons (<http://flickr.com/creativecommons/>). Members can change their license as well as other privacy and permissions settings from their Account page.

If you wish to join The Commons, a separate agreement is being authored for this case.

Q: Are the videos also accessible? Can you add captions?

Flickr members can upload video clips that are up to 90 seconds or less than 150MB in size. Members with Pro accounts can upload unlimited amount of videos as well as video clips in high definition. Free members are able to upload two videos per month. You can add titles, tags and descriptions to the videos as captions, much like you can with photos.

As far as captions, the image description is the caption.

Q: Is there any way to have a "channel" with separate accounts under a mothership, so to speak? The point being separate logins and management for the field offices, while keeping the identity of the agency. Thanks!

There isn't a way to have multiple accounts under the same Flickr ID – all members accessing the "mothership" must go through a single login. However, the account can be organized by sets (albums) and collections (sets of albums) so the photos from different field offices are easily accessible and organized.

Q: Can anyone address the GSA contract?

Please check with the GSA – they should have all the details easily accessible.

Q: The Library of Congress is a natural fit for Flickr. I'm curious about how executive-branch agencies, or state agencies, are using Flickr. Any examples?

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Yes, the White House just launched its photostream at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/whitehouse/>.

Q: Will there be special features/terms for government entities that want to use Flickr? Or do they go with the standard Pro acct?

We would recommend going with the standard Pro account (\$24.95/year) so that you have access to all of the features Flickr has to offer, particularly the ability to view your account stats.

Q: Is there a time limit on video files (like in YouTube)? How similar is the video piece to YouTube?

Videos on Flickr are limited to 90 seconds in length and must be smaller than 150MB in size. Members with Pro accounts can upload unlimited amount of videos as well as video clips in high definition. Free members are able to upload two videos per month.

Video on Flickr is about capturing the moment, and the sharing and discovery of what every day people see and experience in their daily lives through authentic video clips. This is distinct from video consumption services that are focused on aggregating content from a variety of sources and broadcasting content.

Q: Can the panel members explain the differences between comments and notes in Flickr?

Comments are messages that members can leave underneath the photo or video to comment about the content overall. Notes are messages that can be highlighted inside the photo to comment about a specific item in the photo. Members can visually mark certain areas of the photo by drawing a marquee and attaching a description.

Q: I didn't quite get what she said about starting a group as public because you can't make a private group public? Is that right?

When you start a group and mark it private in the beginning, the group cannot be made public afterwards. However, you can make a public group private at any time.

Public groups are listed around the site and on the groups page, profiles, and photo pages if the photo is in a group pool. There are two types of public groups: anyone can join and invitation only. Group administrators can choose to show or hide the group photo pool and discussion topics at any time. Private groups are not listed anywhere on the Flickr site. You can join them only by invitation.

Q: Any info on government access to Flickr? We are blocked at this point.

You shouldn't be blocked from using Flickr. Please contact your agency IT department for more details.

Q: Great discussion. We at the Dept. of State have a Ning site and there is a way to import photos from Flickr, but do you know if people will be able to import photos from Ning to Flickr?

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We do not currently have plans to do this from the Flickr side, but we'd recommend you also reach out to Ning and see if they have their own plans for this kind of integration.

Q: Attaching documents: One other question, can you attach documents to the individual Flickr pages?

You can't attach documents, for example in Word or PDF format, to Flickr. You can only upload content that are in image or video file formats. However, you can link to publicly available content by adding the link in the description to the photo or video.

Q: Is there info on LOC.gov about your Flickr content?

Yes, you can view information about the Library of Congress and Flickr on the LOC.gov:

http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/flickr_pilot.html

Here are a number of additional links where you can find more information:

http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/flickr_pilot_faq.html

http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/flickr_report_final.pdf

http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4281

<http://www.loc.gov/blog/> (postings and comments relating to the project on January 16, 2008 | January 18, 2008 | March 20, 2008 | April 3, 2008 | December 11, 2008)

Q: I know there's a way to upload larger batches of photos to Flickr at once. Is there a way to upload description metadata and tags in batches that can be matched up with photos?

Yes, you can upload larger batches of photos and add titles, descriptions and tags in batches with the Uploadr tool, which can be downloaded from the Tools page:

<http://www.flickr.com/tools/>. Just select the photos you want to work with and apply whichever settings you wish. You can also add and edit titles, descriptions, tags and other settings as well as organize photos in batches after the photos have been uploaded with the Organizr tool.

Q: What kind of usage statistics are available on photos, videos, visitors?

If you are a Pro member, you should be able to view the number of views, traffic referral source information, number of comments and a variety of other stats for all your photos and videos. This is easily accessible from www.flickr.com.

Q: Isn't Flickr video focused more on quality rather than the YouTube approach where they compress the daylights out of it?

Video on Flickr is authentic and personal, and primarily short form, video. We are constantly amazed at the quality of content that our members capture and share. To meet our members' growing appetite for higher-quality video, Flickr recently enabled HD video uploading and viewing.

Q: What about state's using Flickr? Any restrictions on number of accounts or users?

No, there are no restrictions on the number of accounts a state can have, but we would highly recommend that different state agencies or groups coordinate with one another to

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make sure that they have different goals and there wouldn't be overlap in what they are trying to achieve on Flickr.

Q: What desktop apps are available for bulk uploads?

Flickr offers a tool called Uploadr for batch photo and video uploads. Uploadr can be downloaded from the Tools page: <http://www.flickr.com/tools/>.

Q: I would like to know the difference in uses The Library of Congress has for Flickr and Twitter.

The Library is piloting using Twitter as outreach tool, similar to the Library of Congress blog. Twitter is a tool we are using to communicate about Library events, functions, and Library news, often with links back to content on loc.gov, presented in a lively, personal tone.

Flickr is being used as a virtual reading room; a location where digitized content from the Library's collections (historical photographs) are shared with the public and a community that is particularly interested in that type of content, but that might not visit loc.gov. The public is invited to experience items in the collection and describe the items by leaving comments and tags on the account. The Library and users of the collections are benefitting from the history detective work and tagging done by the community. The Library has updated over 500 records in the LC Prints and Photographs catalog with new information provided by the Flickr community.

Q: Does anyone have information on what government agencies 'officially' allow use of Flickr accounts?

We'd recommend you check with the GSA on this. Flickr does not have any restrictions.

Q: Will there be any way in the future to upload multiple photos via mobile phones, like iPhone, using an app, rather than emailing them one by one on the phone?

Currently, we have been focused on creating a rich, mobile Web experience for Flickr and will continue to see how the market evolves. While we can't speak to any future product roll-outs, due to the openness of our API, a number of developers have already built really great third-party applications that do make Flickr available through an iPhone app.

Q: How many images has LOC added to the Flickr community?

To date, the Library of Congress has shared over 6,000 historical and cultural photos to Flickr. Since starting the Commons project with Flickr in January 2008, the Library of Congress has consistently uploaded additional photos every month.